

# Oaks Branches

Bound Together Spreading God's Love

Oaks Christian Church

October 1, 2006  
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## Stewardship Letter and a little Oaks News

As Patsy Gonzales reported in worship this past Sunday, members and friends of Oaks Christian Church have been making an impressive record of both giving and activity this past year.

Giving to the ministries and work of the congregation has been a blessing to the community and world. The **"new programs fund"** has created a substantial reserve upon which we can draw for innovative forms of ministry and service. Gifts to **special funds and projects** have been at record levels with school supplies and uniforms for children, our

youth **Mission Trip** to Florida, and helping with **Lucia's kitchen** after a fire.

Now we look forward to 2007, and much remains to be done.

We have no "flashy" folders and only two special mailings – this one and another to come with a Pledge Card to be returned October 15<sup>th</sup>. Look into your own heart; decide if moving toward tithing is something God wants of you. Step up your giving by a few dollars or by two or three per cent. The benefits are almost beyond description. Plan to **give until it feels REALLY GOOD!**

### A WORD ABOUT "THE PROCESS:"

In many ways, developing and following a budget for the church is very much like what we do with our personal fund management. The **STARTING** place is based on knowing just how much we have to work with in our planning. Additionally, in the life of Oaks Church we get from Ministry Teams and other groups estimates of their needs, compare those to expected income, and present a final budget to a congregational meeting (this year on the last Sunday of November). Thus it is **VERY IMPORTANT** that we have your indication of expected giving for the coming calendar year.

You should approach **prayerfully** your planning for giving to and through the Church. The historical standard for basic Christian giving is the "tithe," ten per cent. Other and special giving comes in addition to that. Some are already doing just that; for others, tithing is still a goal toward which to work. Whichever category is yours, thank you for continuing to support the work and ministries of this congregation so faithfully. If you want a plan for raising the level of your giving, figure out what percentage of income you currently give – then raise it by a few dollars or by a percentage point or two. It DOES get easier the more you consider it. Let your giving reflect your thankfulness for all that God does for you.

**Come visit the KITCHEN CLASS any Sunday morning at 9:30. We meet in the (surprise!) Kirchner kitchen and are just beginning a great program entitled "Windows of Faith." Join in this week; it's "Christianity 101" at its best.**

**CWF date changed:** instead of Tuesday morning, the first October meeting of the Christian Women's Fellowship will be Monday evening, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, to do planning for the fall bazaar. 6:30 – Kirchner Hall – all women invited.

CWF is putting together another cookbook. We will be taking recipes through the fall and start compiling and preparing for printing in the spring. So help us out and give us your best. Turn your recipes in to the church office or put them in the CWF mailbox in Kirchner Hall. We all know that Oaks has the best cooks in town!!!!



Just a reminder that CWF has Kroger's "community share cards." If you would like to have a card please contact Barb Scantlin. The money received from Kroger is used for special projects around the church.

**THANK YOU!!!** to everyone who participated in donating to Vacation Bible School crafts, whether with supplies, money, or time. This is always a big hit among the children and youth; and because art was my area of study in school, it means a great deal to me that you feel crafts and art important in VBS. Next year come to visit the art/crafts classes to see the excitement in our children's faces and be touched by the positive ways in which they create! Thanks, again.

*Katie Spencer*

Some will say, "*Well, I didn't know that;*" but it is **TRUE** – there are actually some points of courtesy and etiquette (not the "stuffy kind") that apply to worship. One is discussed below on the matter of applause; the other has to do with letting your friends and Church family approach worship with a sense of quiet peace and reflection. We sometimes get so involved in visiting and talking that we are unaware of those who are waiting prayerfully for worship to begin. Please be considerate of others, and perhaps take a few moments to offer your own prayers for our worship and congregation.

### TO CLAP OR NOT TO CLAP ....

It is important that we express our appreciation to those who help lead us in worship, and church people often are not sure just how to do that. Sometimes we "blur" that fine line between worship and concert performance behavior. In the latter, we honor the performer(s); in worship, however, the primary motive of a choir, soloist, or other leader is to give glory to God. As such, applause is not really an appropriate response to a sincere musical or other offering. At Oaks, our regular and visiting musicians and others who lead us in worship prepare themselves in a sacrificial offering to God. Whisper a word of thanks to God for these who work so diligently, and then feel free to speak to them after worship.

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**Most sincere sympathy to Joan and Robert Roberts  
at the death of his sister, Mary Edwards.**



## *OUR MEMBERS*

Mark Conover	Lida Crump	Gene Pratt	Kyle Spencer
Ruth Conover	Jeanne Fitzgerald	Joanne Rose	Larry Scruggs
Aileen Crafton	Maydell Howard	Charles and Gloria Slocum	Betty Sullivan

**AT HOME** – Aileen Crafton, Genevieve Harvey, Elizabeth Hamilton, Sue Harrison, Betty Kasper, Richard Lineberger, Louise Pitts

**NURSING HOME RESIDENTS** – Catherine Jones, Dorothy Plumbly, Lenetta Schaper, Frankie Schreiber, Billie Volotko

## *OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS*

Jamie Angelone (Nita Aber)	Jordan Family (Jon Mizula)
Florian Baronowski (Elizabeth Wharton)	Carol Lamb (Chris' mother)
Lorraine Beard (Jon Mizula)	Tonya Matthis (Verna Lamb)
Ray Bitner (Jimmye Saldivar)	Martha Moss (Betty Sullivan)
Kiley Brannon (Betty Kasper's granddaughter)	Robert Murray (Don's brother)
Linda Brannon (Betty Kasper's daughter)	New Life, Belarus (Evalyn Ratcliff)
Craig Bryant (Elizabeth Wharton's son-in-law)	Aileen North (MANNA Board President)
Dorothy Burge (Anne Hudson)	Elton Payne (Emily Whitley)
Tom Cody (Debra Cody Holland)	Rita Poling (Bethany's mother)
Ruth Cortez (Jimmye Saldivar)	Joe, Dani and Nathan Ramirez (Verna Lamb)
Dennis Cox (Murrays)	Jonelle Ramsey (Katie Spencer)
Grace Culpepper (Linda Dalmasso)	Dewitt and Pat Reed (Betty Sullivan)
Jana Crump (Verna Lamb)	Craig Robinson (Nita Aber's nephew)
Greg Darnell (Joyce McQueen)	Kenneth Sidenblad
Ginia Duffy (Slocums)	Bill Staley (Joshua's grandfather)
Troy Franke (Agnes Pratt's brother)	Oliver Stork (Bettie Bell)
John Gorman (Jimmye Saldivar)	Stanley Stark (Barbara Green's grandson)
Trellis Green (Rudy's brother)	Tony Taylor (Durene Stewart's nephew)
Marissa Hammond (Ruth Conover)	Morgan Trapp (Patricia Staley)
David Hanlon (Jimmye Saldivar)	Jack and Margie Turner (Anne Hudson)
Cece Hofland (Joanne Rose's sister)	Derick Wyatt (Anderaus)
Wesley Hudson (Anne's grandson)	John D. Yates (Bethany Poling)

## *OUR MILITARY FAMILY*

Curtis and Kenneth Anderau - U.S. Army (Anderaus)	Jason Mendez – U.S. Army (Raynette Stanley)
Jeremy Benefiel – (Barbara Green)	Matthew Morrish – U.S. Marines
Kyle Cox – USAF (Murrays' grandson)	Mike Morrish – U.S. Army
Rick Gonzales (Angelique's dad)	Paul St. Lawrence – U.S. Army (Jon Mizula)
Kristina and Michael Graham – USAF (Lunas)	Stacey Sirmons - U.S. Army (B. Bell's granddaughter)
Karl Herbst – U.S. Army (Dorene Drake)	Ethan Slocum – U.S. Marines (Slocums)
Ruben Lartique – U. S. Marines (Joanne Staley)	Bennie Stockman – U.S.C.G. (Anderaus)
Adam Luna – U.S. Army (Lunas)	Joe Wildman – USAF (Maria Hargrave)

School has started and the fall is right around the corner. With that thought comes October, which is apple pie time. The CWF ladies and anyone else that would like to help put these delicious pies together will be working on the pies October 23 and 24 at 6:00 p.m. We make the pie shells on Monday night and finish with the apples and crumb topping on Tuesday night. We will start taking orders for these pies the second week of September. The pies will cost \$8.00 each. We make whatever is ordered with no extras. So if you want a pie, place your order by filling out the insert at Sunday worship on September 10.

CWF will again be sponsoring our annual BAZAAR on November 11, 2006. Advertising has started and we are getting vendor reservations for booths. We hope it will be as successful as it was last year and will start planning in high gear in September. So mark your calendars and watch for more news in future newsletters.